

NY 100-10000

P A K I S T A N

Statement of contribution



PERMANENT MISSION OF PAKISTAN

56, RUE DE MOILLEBEAU
1211 GENEVA
TEL. 34 77 60

14 February 1966

The Director-General,
General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade,
Villa "Le Bocage",
Geneva

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you
a statement setting out the contribution of
Pakistan to the Kennedy Round of Trade
Negotiations.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances
of my highest consideration.

Akhtar Mahmood
Akhtar Mahmood
First Secretary.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF PAKISTAN TO THE
KENNEDY ROUND OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

In accordance with the plan for the participation of the less-developed countries in the Kennedy Round of Trade Negotiations adopted in March, 1965, Pakistan notified the GATT Secretariat on 20 April 1965, of its intention to participate in the Kennedy Round in terms of the Ministerial Resolutions of 21 May 1963, and 6 May 1964, and Part IV, entitled "Trade and Development", of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and to table its contribution to the objectives of the trade negotiations, namely, a significant liberalisation of world trade through removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers. This memorandum sets out the contribution which Pakistan is prepared to make to the objectives of the trade negotiations.

BACKGROUND

2. The commercial policy of Pakistan is determined primarily by the requirements of its development programmes. The key scarcity the Government of Pakistan has to deal with in developing its commercial policy is the inadequacy of its export earnings compared to its import requirements.

The main objective of the commercial policy of Pakistan during the Third Plan beginning from July 1965 is to move towards greater economic viability and to finance an increasing proportion of development

imports from the country's own resources. The first important element in this strategy is to increase exports at a rate considerably faster than the increase in the GNP. The second element is to develop an import pattern which will encourage savings and investment and accelerate development. Both these elements are expected to help in reducing still further the need for foreign assistance and to take the country nearer to its long term objective of self-sustaining growth.

3. Since 1947, the exports of Pakistan have increased 3 times. The share of manufactures in this trade has increased from 1% in 1951-52 to 27% in 1965. The imports of Pakistan during this period have, however, increased 12 times. The share of development goods in the total imports has increased from 27% in 1951 to 63% in 1965. In the Third Plan as a whole, total development imports are estimated at Rs 22,500 million, which is about 63% of total imports of Rs 35,000 million over the 5-year period.

4. The two main instruments of Pakistan's import policy are customs duties and foreign exchange control. Both these instruments are used and continuously re-shaped to achieve the targets of the development plans.

The main function of tariffs in Pakistan is to influence the quantity and composition of imports,

to provide protection to emerging industries, and to generate revenue. Receipts from customs are a major source of revenue for Pakistan, in spite of continuous efforts to broaden and diversify the basis of taxation.

5. The Customs Tariff Schedule of Pakistan is reviewed continuously in order to adapt it to the changing requirements of the developing economy of the country. The existing customs tariff of Pakistan is the outcome of a major review carried out in 1960, and the amendments made since then. It will be seen from Government notifications No. SRO 55(R)/65, SRO 57(R)/65 and SRO 58(R)/65, all dated 14 June, 1965, (Annexures I, II and III) that the import of agricultural machinery or equipment is exempt from the whole of the customs duty leviable thereon, and most of the machinery required for development purposes is exempt from so much of the customs duty leviable thereon as is in excess of 25% ad valorem when imported into any part in West Pakistan, and from so much of the duty as is in excess of 20% ad valorem when imported into any part in East Pakistan. The rates of duty in Pakistan on capital goods, including agricultural machinery and equipment and items which bear directly upon the health and social welfare of the public, are thus quite low.

6. The period 1960-65 witnessed a gradual but decisive liberalisation of trade from restrictive import control leading to a sharp acceleration in

WELL AND
STRUCTURE
TARIFFS

TRADE
LIBERALIZATION

investment and increased production on account of fuller utilisation of installed capacity. The table set out below will show that the measures taken to liberalise import since 1958-59 have resulted in a steep rise of imports into Pakistan:

<u>(July-June)</u>	<u>(In Million Rs)</u>	<u>% increase compared to 1958-59</u>
1958-59	1578	
1959-60	2461	56%
1960-61	3188	102%
1961-62	3109	97%
1962-63	3819	142%
1963-64	4430	181%
1964-65 (estimated)	5267	234%

The process of liberalization has been described in some detail in Annexure IV. The current Five-Year Plan envisages further liberalization of trade.

7. Pakistan does not levy any excise duty on imported goods. Capital goods imported into Pakistan are also exempt from sales-tax.

8. In response to the suggestions made by some contracting parties in the context of the Kennedy Round of Trade Negotiations, a review of the regulations affecting the importation of goods has been carried out. The two main regulations concerned with the importation of goods are briefly set out in Annexure V. These regulations do not constitute an obstacle to expansion of trade. On the contrary, they serve to improve the

LES-TAX AND
EXCISE DUTY

REGULATIONS
AFFECTING
IMPORTATION OF
GOODS

orderly importation of goods.

IMPORT
PROCEDURES

9. The measures taken by the Government of Pakistan to simplify import procedures and to improve the efficiency of the Import Control Organisation are set out in Annexure VI.

CONTRIBUTION
PAKISTAN

10. The reform of the tariff structure of Pakistan, the liberalisation of import trade, and the administrative measures taken to facilitate imports are the main contribution of Pakistan to the objectives of the Kennedy Round of Trade Negotiations. In accordance with its past policy and practice, and ~~in~~ its desire to contribute to the success of the Kennedy Round, the Government of Pakistan will keep under constant review its import policy and continue to liberalise imports in so far as its balance of payments permits it to do so.

11. In preparing this memorandum, the Government of Pakistan has also taken into account fully the suggestions made by the United States, Canada and other contracting parties regarding its import procedures. It would, however, be glad to discuss with any contracting party any specific proposal that it wishes to make with regard to the improvement of the import procedures of Pakistan.

12. It is exceedingly difficult at this stage for Pakistan to go beyond the measures set out in paragraph 10 above, and to reduce further its tariffs. However, in fulfilment of its commitment to the contracting parties to make as full a contribution to the objectives of the Kennedy Round

of Trade Negotiations as its economy permits, Pakistan would be glad to discuss with any contracting party any specific problem which may have arisen on account of the structure of Pakistan's tariffs.

Pakistan enjoys margins of tariff preference on virtually all of its manufactured exports to the United Kingdom under an agreement concluded between Pakistan and the United Kingdom in 1951. (These preferences are recognized by the General Agreement under paragraph 2 of its Article I). From the exceptions list of industrial items of the United Kingdom, it is evident that the margins of preference enjoyed by Pakistan will decline substantially at the conclusion of the Kennedy Round of Trade Negotiations. Pakistan would be prepared to suffer this loss of advantage in the market of its largest customer, namely, United Kingdom, provided it receives adequate compensation in the markets of the other industrialised contracting parties participating in the Kennedy Round. The present indications are that Pakistan might lose its traditional advantage in the United Kingdom without receiving adequate compensation in the markets of other industrialised countries. The Government of Pakistan has noted the assurance given by the United Kingdom in paragraph 3(b) of the Note by the United Kingdom delegation on the United Kingdom's exceptions list of industrial

items and hopes that the developed contracting parties participating in the Kennedy Round will give due consideration to effects of the Kennedy Round of Trade Negotiations on the margins of preferences of Pakistan in the United Kingdom.

13. The Government of Pakistan is confident that the contracting parties will take necessary steps to ensure that the trading opportunities of all developing countries, including Pakistan, expand rather than contract as a result of the Kennedy Round of Trade Negotiations.

Extracts from the Gazette of Pakistan Extraordinary
Rawalpindi, Monday, June 14, 1965.

S.R.O.55(R)/65.-In exercise of the powers conferred by section 23 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878 (VIII of 1878), and in supersession of this Ministry's notification S.R.O.30(R)/62, dated the 12th June, 1962, the Central Government is pleased to direct that with effect on and from 15th June, 1965, the articles falling under the heading numbers of the First Schedule to the Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), specified in the Schedule below, intended for use exclusively for agricultural purposes or as component parts or spare parts of agricultural machinery or equipment, shall be exempt from the whole of the customs duty leviable thereon :

Provided that it is established to the satisfaction of the Customs Collector that the articles cannot ordinarily be used or will not be used for purposes other than agriculture.

Schedule

Heading Nos.40.09, 40.10, 59.15, 59.16, sub-head "A" of heading No.73.29, sub-head "B" of heading No.73.35, sub-head "D" of heading No.73.40, heading No.82.01, sub-head "A" of heading No.82.06, sub-head "B(i)" of heading No.84.06, sub-head "D" of heading No.84.18, sub-head "B(i)" of heading No.84.21, sub-head "B" of heading No.84.24, sub-head "B" of heading No.84.25, heading No.84.28, sub-head "A" of heading No.84.63, sub-head "A" of heading No.84.64, and sub-head "B" of heading No.85.08.

....

Extracts from the Gazette of Pakistan Extraordinary
Rawalpindi, Monday, June 14, 1965.

S.R.O.57(R)/65.-In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 23 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878 (VIII of 1878), the Central Government is pleased to direct that with effect on and from the 15th June, 1965, articles falling under the heading numbers of the First Schedule to the Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), specified in the first column of the table below, which are machinery, or articles for use with machinery or as component parts or spare parts of machinery as defined in column 2 of the table, shall be exempt from so much of the customs duty leviable thereon as is in excess of 25% ad valorem when imported into West Pakistan:

Provided that -

- (a) the articles are identifiable as intended for use only with machinery and have been given for that purpose some special shape, size or quality;
- (b) it is established to the satisfaction of the Customs Collector that the articles are used as aforesaid;
- (c) no duty of customs has been imposed on the articles under the Protective Duties Act, 1950 (LXI of 1950), nor has the duty of customs imposed on the articles been changed under the said Act into protective.

TABLE

Heading number in the First Schedule to the Tariff Act, 1934 1	Definition of machinery 2
28.05, sub-head "F" of heading No. 39.07, 40.14, sub-head "B" of heading No.48.07, 48.08, 48.13, sub-head "B" of heading No.48.15, sub-head "A" of heading No.48.21, sub-head "B" of heading No.39.08, 59.15, sub-head "A" of heading No.68.04, sub-head "B" of heading No.68.13, sub-head "B" of heading No.69.06, sub-head "B" of heading No.69.07, sub-head "B" of heading No.69.08, 70.20, 70.21, 71.09, sub-head "B" of heading No.73.21, 73.22, 73.27 (excluding wire netting), 73.31, 73.32, sub-head "B" of heading No.73.34, sub-head "B" of heading No. 73.35, sub-heads "B" and "D" of heading No. 73.40, 74.07, 74.08, 74.09, 74.10, 74.11 74.13, 74.14, 74.15, 74.16, sub-head "D (i) and (ii) of heading No.74.19, 75.04,	Machinery, operated by power of any description, such as is used in any industrial process including the generation, transmission and distribution of power, or used in processes directly connected with the extraction of minerals and timber, construction of buildings, roads, dams, bridges and similar structures, and the manufacture of goods. (ii) Apparatus and appliances, including metering and testing apparatus and appliances specially adapted for use in conjunction with machinery, specified in item (i) above. (iii) Mechanical and electrical control and transmission gear adapted for use in

Contd/....

sub-head "B(i) and (ii)" of heading No.75.05, 76.06, 76.07, sub-head "B" of heading No. 76.08, 76.09, 76.12, 76.13, sub-heads "A", "B (ii)" and "E(i) and (ii)" of heading No.76.16, 77.03, 78.05, sub-heads "A", and "C(i) and (ii)" of heading No.78.06, 79.04, sub-heads "A", "D" and "E(i) and (ii)", of heading No.79.06, 80.05, sub-heads "A" and "B(ii)" of heading No.80.08, sub-head "C(i)" of heading No.84.08, sub-head "B(ii)" of heading No.84.21, sub-heads "A" and "B" of heading No.85.04, 85.12, 85.28, 90.07, 90.15, 90.16, 90.26, sub-head "B" of heading No.96.02 and 98.07.

conjunction with machinery as specified in item (i) above.

(iv) Component parts, including spare parts of machinery, as specified in items (i), (ii) and (iii) above, identifiable as for use in or with such machinery:

Provided that articles which are not components in terms of the definition given above shall also be deemed to be component parts of the machine to which they pertain if they are essential to its operation and are imported with it in such quantities as may appear to the Collector of Customs to be reasonable.

Extracts from the Gazette of Pakistan Extraordinary
Rawalpindi, Monday, June 14, 1965.

S.R.O.58(R)/65.-In exercise of the powers conferred by section 23 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878 (VIII of 1878), the Central Government is pleased to direct that with effect on and from the 15th June, 1965, articles falling under the heading numbers of the First Schedule to the Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), specified in the first column of the table below, which are machinery, or articles for use with machinery or as component parts or spare parts of machinery as defined in column 2 of the table, shall be exempt from so much of the customs duty leviable thereon as is in excess of 20% ad valorem when imported into East Pakistan:

Provided that-

- (a) the articles are identifiable as intended for use only with machinery and have been given for that purpose some special shape, size or quality;
- (b) it is established to the satisfaction of the Customs Collector that the articles are used as aforesaid;
- (c) no duty of customs has been imposed on the articles under the Protective Duties Act, 1950 (LXI of 1950), nor has the duty of customs imposed on the articles has been changed under the said Act into protective.

TABLE

Heading number in the First Schedule to the Tariff Act, 1934 1	Definition of machinery 2
28.05, sub-head "F" of heading No.39.07, 40.09, 40.10, 40.14, 42.04, sub-head "A" of heading No.42.06, 44.26, sub-head "A" of heading No.45.04, sub-head "B" of heading No.48.07, 48.08, 48.13, sub-head "B" of heading No.48.15, sub-head "A" of heading No.48.20, sub-heads "A" and "C(1)" of heading No.48.21, sub-head "B" of heading No.59.08, 59.15, 59.16, 59.17, sub-head "A" of heading No.68.04, sub-head "B" of heading No.68.04, 68.06, 68.07, sub-head "B" of heading No.68.13, 68.14, 69.01, sub-heads "A" and "B" of heading No.69.02, 69.03, sub-head "B" of heading No.69.06, sub-head "B" of heading No.69.08, sub-head "B" of heading No.69.09, 70.20, 70.21, 71.09, 73.17, 73.18, 73.19, 73.20, sub-head "B" of heading No.73.21, 73.22, 73.24, 73.25, 73.27 (excluding wire netting), sub-head "A" of heading No.73.29, 73.31, 73.32, sub-head "B" of heading No. 73.34, sub-head "B" of heading No.73.35, sub-heads "B" and "D" of heading No. 73.40, 74.07, 74.08, 74.09, 74.10, 74.11, 74.13, 74.15, 74.16, sub-head	<p>Machinery, operated by power of any description, such as it is used in any industrial process, including the generation, transmission and distribution of power, or used in processes directly connected with the extraction of minerals and timber, construction of buildings, roads, dams, bridges and similar structures, and the manufacture of goods.</p> <p>(if) Apparatus and appliances, including metering and testing apparatus and appliances specially adapted for use in conjunction with machinery, specified in item (i) above.</p> <p>(ii) Mechanical and electrical control and transmission gear adapted for use in conjunction with machinery as specified in item (i) above.</p> <p>(iv) Component parts, inclu-</p>

"D(i) and (ii)" of heading No.74.19, 75.04, 75.05, sub-head "B(i) and (ii)" of heading No.75.06, 76.06, 76.07, sub-head "B" of heading No.76.08, 76.09, 76.11, 76.12, 76.13, sub-heads "A" and "B(ii)" of heading No.78.06, 79.04, sub-heads "A", "D" and "E(i) and (ii)" of heading No.79.06, 80.05, sub-heads "A" and "B(ii)" of heading No.80.06, 82.02, 82.03, 82.04, 82.05, sub-head "B" of heading No.82.06, 82.07, 83.08, 83.15, 84.01, 84.02, 84.03, 84.04, 84.05, sub-head "B(iii)" of heading No.84.06 (excluding Diesel oil engines up to and including 50B.H.P., vertical and horizontal), 84.07, sub-heads "B" and "C(i) and (ii)" of heading No.84.08, 84.09, sub-head "B" of heading No.84.10, sub-heads "A(iii)" and "B" of heading No.84.11, sub-head "B" of heading No.84.12, 84.13, 84.14, sub-head "B(i)" of heading No.84.15, 84.16, sub-head "B" of heading No.84.17, sub-heads "A" "C" and "D" of heading No.84.18, sub-head "B" of heading No.84.19, sub-heads "A" and "B" of heading No.84.20, sub-heads "A" and "B(ii)" of heading No.84.21, sub-head "C" of heading No.84.22, 84.23, 84.26, 84.27, 84.29, 84.30, 84.31, 84.32, 84.33, sub-head "B" of heading No.84.34, 84.35, 84.36, 84.37, 84.38, 84.39, sub-head "B" of heading No.84.40, sub-head "B" of heading No.84.41, 84.42, 84.43, 84.44, 84.45, 84.46, 84.47, sub-heads "A(i) and (ii)", "B" and "C" of heading No.84.48, 84.49, 84.50, 84.56, 84.57, 84.59, 84.60, sub-head "B" of heading No.84.61 (excluding bicycle, tube valves), 84.62, sub-head "C" of heading No.84.63, sub-head "C" of heading No.84.64, 84.65, 85.01, 85.02, 85.04, 85.05, sub-head "B" of heading No.85.08, 85.11, 85.12, sub-head "B" of heading No.85.18, sub-heads "A(i)" and "B(i)" of heading No.85.19 (excluding complete switch gear, switchboards and control panels), sub-head "A" of heading No.85.21, 85.22, sub-head "B" of heading No.85.23, 85.25, sub-head "A" of heading No.85.26, 85.27, 85.28. Process cameras and parts and accessories thereof falling

as specified in items (i), (ii) and (iii) above, identifiable as for use in or with such machinery: Provided that a ticles which are not components in terms of the the definition given above shall also be deemed to be component parts of the machine to which they pertain if they are essential to its operation and are imported with it in such quantities as may appear to the Collector of Customs to be reasonable.

under heading No.90.07, sub-head
"B" of heading No.90.08, 90.15,
90.16, 90.22, 90.23, 90.24, 90.25,
90.26, sub-head "B" of heading No.90.27,
91.06, sub-heads "A(i)" and "B" of
heading No.96.02 and 98.07.

.....

LIBERALIZATION OF TRADE

For balance of payments reasons, import control was introduced in Pakistan towards the end of 1952. Since then imports have been allowed of commodities specified in the import programme which till 30 June, 1965, were notified twice each year i.e. for January-June and July-December period. From 1 July 1965, however, the import programme has been put on a yearly basis i.e. from 1 July 1965 to 30 June 1966. The broad structure of this programme consists of

- i) items on Free List;
- ii) items on the normal import list;
- iii) items on Open General Licensing List.

No import licence is needed for the import of items on the Free List. For items on the normal import list, licences are issued to established commercial importers and/or industrial consumers on the basis of their categories (based on past imports) and without individual applications. The Open General Licensing List has been introduced mainly to admit new comers into the import trade in the items on this list with a view to broadening the base of the trade.

The statistical table appended to this memorandum gives an indication of the import programme from January-June, 1959 upto date. It will be seen from this table that in January-June 1960, in addition to the normal import list, a process of automatic licensing was introduced for drugs and medicines which enabled the importers to get another licence once they had utilised their previous licence. In July-December 1960,

a major sector of the economy was freed from the import control in-as-much-as 28 items were placed on the automatic licensing list. Initial and repeat licences for these items were issued to the importers at 100% of their categories and as many as 130 industries were enabled to import 100% of their requirements of raw materials.

In January-June 1961, another step of major importance in the import liberalisation programme was taken and a special scheme known as Open General Licensing Scheme covering 12 essential items of industrial and consumer interest was introduced. The number of items on the automatic licensing list was also increased from 28 to 62.

In July-December, 1961, the scope of the OGL List was increased from 12 to 49 items and as many as 173 industries were licenced for raw materials and spare parts on "request basis", i.e. for such amounts as were asked for by them according to their own estimates of requirements.

In January-June 1962, liberal licensing was introduced for 122 industries and the import programme was given an export bias by allowing the facility of additional import licences to 31 industries against their export performance.

In July-December 1963, the number of items covered by OGL Scheme was raised to 50. In January-June, 1964, a further major liberalisation measure was taken when free import of 4 items of iron and steel was permitted. No import licence was needed in importing these items. During July-December, 1964, a large segment of economy was freed from licensing control and as many as 51 items representing a wide range

of essential raw materials and consumer goods was placed on the free list. Furthermore, during this period, the procedure for the issue of licences to industries was simplified by classifying industries into two categories. The first category, which included nearly 85% of the industries in the country, was issued licences on automatic basis, while the other category was licenced liberally.

Over 60 per cent of the private imports during 1964-65 were not subject to direct quantitative restrictions.

From 1 July 1965, another major step in the process of liberalisation of imports has been taken. This consists in the notification of the import programme on a yearly basis, i.e. from 1 July, 1965 to 30 June, 1966. It gives more time for planning of import of goods by importers, leads to economy in expenditure and ensures stability of prices. Under the import programme for 1965-66, items on the free list have been increased to 56. The number of industries licensed on automatic licensing basis stands at 236 and the number of industries licensed liberally stands at 56. The number of items on the OGL list is 33 and, in addition, there are 101 items on the normal import list.

In addition to the items on the normal import list, items on OGL list and items on free list, a large number of items are allowed to be imported without any quantitative restrictions against import licences issued under the Export Bonus Scheme. Import licences are also issued against applications from individuals to import particular products for personal use.

Some of these concessions have been temporarily withdrawn as a result of the national emergency following the outbreak of hostilities with India in September, 1965, but every effort will be made to restore them as soon as more normal conditions prevail.

Statistical Table of Import Programmes for the half-year periods
from 1 January, 1959, to 30 June, 1965 and for the full year 1965-66

Period	Items on normal import list	Items on automatic licensing list	Items on OCL List	Items on Free List	Industrial Licensing					
					No. of industries licensed on automatic licensing basis	No. of industries licensed on request basis	No. of industries licensed on specific basis (liberal) Licensing	No. of industries whose import licensing was linked to export performance	No. of Export industries granted special additional licences	No. of industries licensed on basis to be determined/ on specific basis
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1-6/59	174	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7-12/59	201	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-6/60	200	1 (drugs & medicines)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7-12/60	188	28	-	-	130	-	-	-	-	-
1-6/61	186	62	12	-	118	-	51	-	12	-
7-12/61	184	14	49	-	18	173	-	-	12	-
1-6/62	173	14	48	-	36	7	122	31	-	-
7-12/62	179	14	49	-	52	9	101	35	-	-
1-6/63	166	13	49	-	51	10	101	33	-	-
7-12/63	175	12	50	-	51	80	101	33	-	-
1-6/64	118	9	51	4	82	10	-	42	-	122
7-12/64	98	-	33	51	232	-	-	-	-	59
1-6/65	104	-	34	51	236	-	-	-	-	56
65-66	101	-	33	56	236	-	-	-	-	56

REVIEW OF NON-TARIFF RESTRICTIONS

A review of the various regulations affecting the imported goods has been carried out. This review has shown that the regulations in question do not hinder the flow of the trade. The position is briefly described below :-

Taxes, Charges and Penalties:Fees:

- i) Under the Court Fees Act, applications made to Government by importers are required to bear court fee stamps of certain denominations. The monetary value of the stamps affixed by importers to their applications is nominal and does not vary with the value represented by the applications. Hence, no hardship is caused by the requirements of the Court Fees Act in the case of goods imported into Pakistan.
- ii) Fees are charged on import licences/permits under Licences and Permit Fees Order, 1958, and on review petitions from importers under Review, Appeal and Revision Order, 1957. The licence/permit fees are very nominal.
- iii) Review, Appeal and Revision fees are realised mainly to discourage indiscriminate sub-mission of frivolous petitions. These fees are negligible in value.
- iv) For attestation of certificates of origin etc., the rates of fees are laid down in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Notification No. 668(K)/63, dated 2 September, 1963, published in the Gazette of Pakistan of 13 September, 1963. These rates are applicable to all countries. There is no fee for customs clearance of goods as such.

Penalties and Fines:

Penalties and fines are imposed after due judicial process.

MEASURES TAKEN TO STREAMLINE IMPORT PROCEDURES AND
TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY AND WORKING OF THE IMPORT
CONTROL ORGANISATIONS SINCE 1958.

Amalgamation of categories of commercial importers:

Since the imposition of control on imports in 1952, registered commercial importers were being issued import licences on the basis of categories (entitlements) assigned to them for such items as they used to import during the Open General Licensing period of 1950-52. In many cases an importer used to get a number of licences for different items of small value which were uneconomical to operate. It was, therefore, decided to amalgamate the small categories held by the importers into one or two big categories representing their main line of business and this work was completed in 1959. The amalgamation of categories has enabled the importers to concentrate on their main line of business. It has also saved a lot of administrative work which was involved in issuing licences for small amounts.

Introduction of a new licensing system:

A new system for the issue of licences was introduced in 1960. This system works on the lines of bank counter system. Under this system, Licence issuing counters of the Import Control Organisation and an office of the State Bank of Pakistan are housed in the same building. The importers are required to present their application forms for issue of licences through their nominated scheduled banks to the licence issuing counters. The application forms are scrutinised with utmost speed. If they are in order, a licence is issued straightway. The licence is registered by the office of the State Bank of Pakistan and passed on to the importer through his bank. If an importer has completed all the formalities, the issue of licences under this system takes not more than 24 hours whereas under the old system it took many weeks to secure an import licence.

Delegation of powers to officers at lower levels in the Import Control Organisation:

In order to improve the efficiency and to ensure quick disposal of work connected with the issue, amendment, re-validation etc. of import licences suitable powers have been delegated to the officers of various levels in the Import Control Organisation. The

delegation of powers ensures that all routine work is handled and disposed of at lower levels and only questions involving important points of policy are referred to higher officers for decision.

Re-organisation of Import Control Organisation:

The Import Control Organisation has been re-organised on the basis of the report of a Committee of Experts. More offices of the Organisation have been opened in different parts of the country in order to facilitate the disposal of cases of the importers located in the areas of their jurisdiction.

Manual of Import Procedures:

A Manual of Import Control Procedures has been compiled and published for the guidance of importers. This Manual presents in simple language at one place the various rules, regulations and orders relating to the functioning of import controls. These regulations had multiplied during the last few years with the changing pattern of economy and the trade and industry in the country were experiencing difficulty in knowing the basic information.

Training of officers of the Import Control Organisation:

In order to improve the efficiency of the Import Control Organisation through modern techniques of public administration, training courses have been organised for the officers of the Organisation at the National Institutes of Public Administration at Lahore, Karachi and Dacca and a large number of officers have already completed their training.